FIRING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE

BUFFALO BILL

CENTENNIAL PISTOL

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Chairman, Antique Arms Committee

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The .44 percussion Colt carried by Buffalo Bill was every inch a man's gun. It shot a heavy enough ball or bullet to stop a man or a horse. The .44 Colt was the answer to the U.S. Army's need for a powerful weapon. Cody knew the value of such a tool as it had saved his life in run-ins with Indians and when he was a scout for the Seventh Kansas Cavalry. Cody was not the only man to appreciate the value of this weapon. President Lincoln and Samuel Colt had both presented especially fine examples of the side arm to American soldiers, including General George McClellan, whose name is associated with the saddle which he designed. Other presentation .44 Colt percussion revolvers went to the Kings of Sweden and Denmark, as well as to other European and Near Eastern royalty.

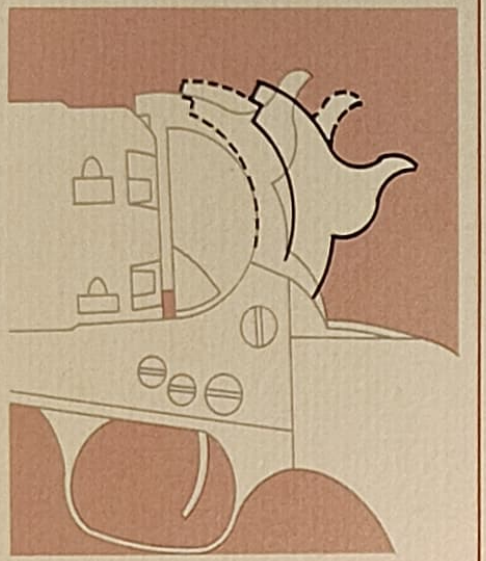
Not only was the weapon an effective stopper and a durably built tool, which could take a lot of punishment, but it had an additional virtue. The .44 calibre ball worked equally well in a long gun or cavalry carbine. This meant that a soldier or scout armed with the .44 Colt needed but one bullet pouch and one bullet mould. No chance for a slip-up in loading the wrong sized ball and a lot less weight to carry in a saddle bag. The worth of the .44 was proven by its use by the U.S. Army up until after 1873, well into the cartridge period. Cody was seldom seen without his ivory stocked .44's in his belt.

IMPORTANT! Don't overload the chambers of the cylinder. For target shooting 25 grains (four fifths of a dram if you have an old measure) is just right if you are shooting a round ball. A heavier charge will give greater penetration and less accuracy. It is human nature to add a pinch more of anything that the recipe calls for on the theory that this will improve the flavor or, in this case, the efficiency of the revolver. Believe me, it doesn't. Use 25 grains for maximum accuracy and never more than 35 grains for maximum penetration with round ball, and 20 grains to a maximum of 25 grains with conical projectiles. The diameter of the bullet should be .451. You can cast your own lead with the mould.

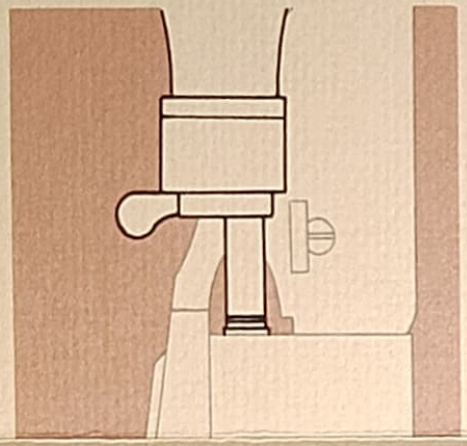
If you want to shoot the easy way, you can buy already cast bullets in different shapes. In order to shoot your 1860 Colt percussion .44, you will need FFFG gunpowder (not smokeless) and a box of No. 10 caps.

Here is how to load your .44 Colt percussion revolver.

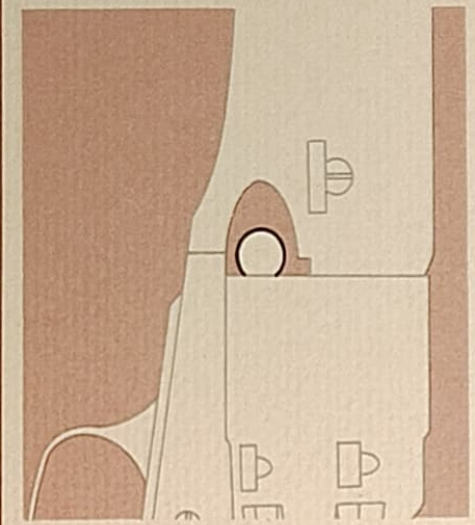
[1] *First, cock the hammer halfway by pulling it back to half cock. This will allow the cylinder to revolve freely.*



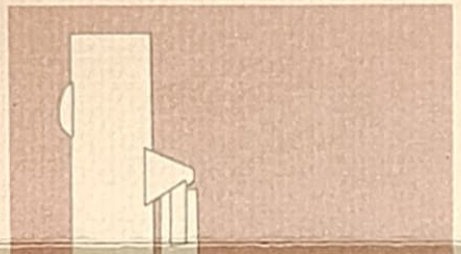
[2] *Pour a pre-measured charge of powder into one of the chambers.*



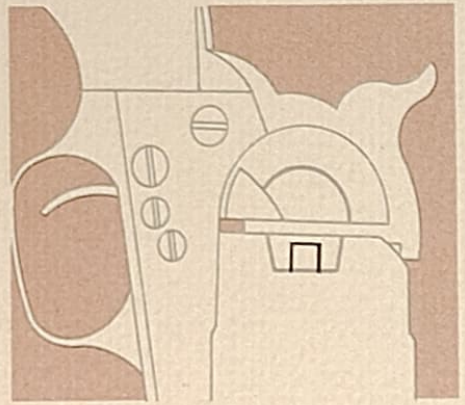
[3] *Seat the ball with the sprue up, on the mouth of the chamber and rotate the cylinder until it is under the loading lever.*



[4] *Ram the charge home with the loading lever piston.(The lever drops down when you retract the spring loaded catch of the ramrod. The catch is located under the muzzle of the barrel.) Repeat the process until five of the six chambers have been loaded.*

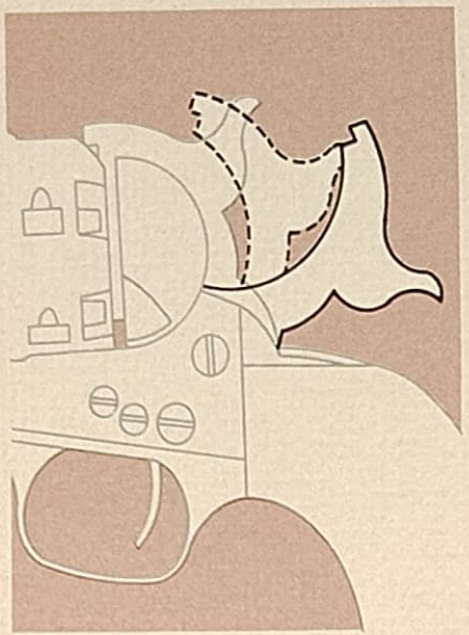


[5] *Push a percussion cap on each of the five nipples. The hammer can then be lowered carefully on the unprimed nipple and the revolver can be carried safely without fear of discharge. Be sure not to snap the hammer or let the hammer hit the uncovered nipple with force. This*



will smash the nipple and close the hole which conveys the flash to the powder in the chamber. If this happens, the deformed nipple must be removed with a special nipple wrench and a new nipple must be screwed in.

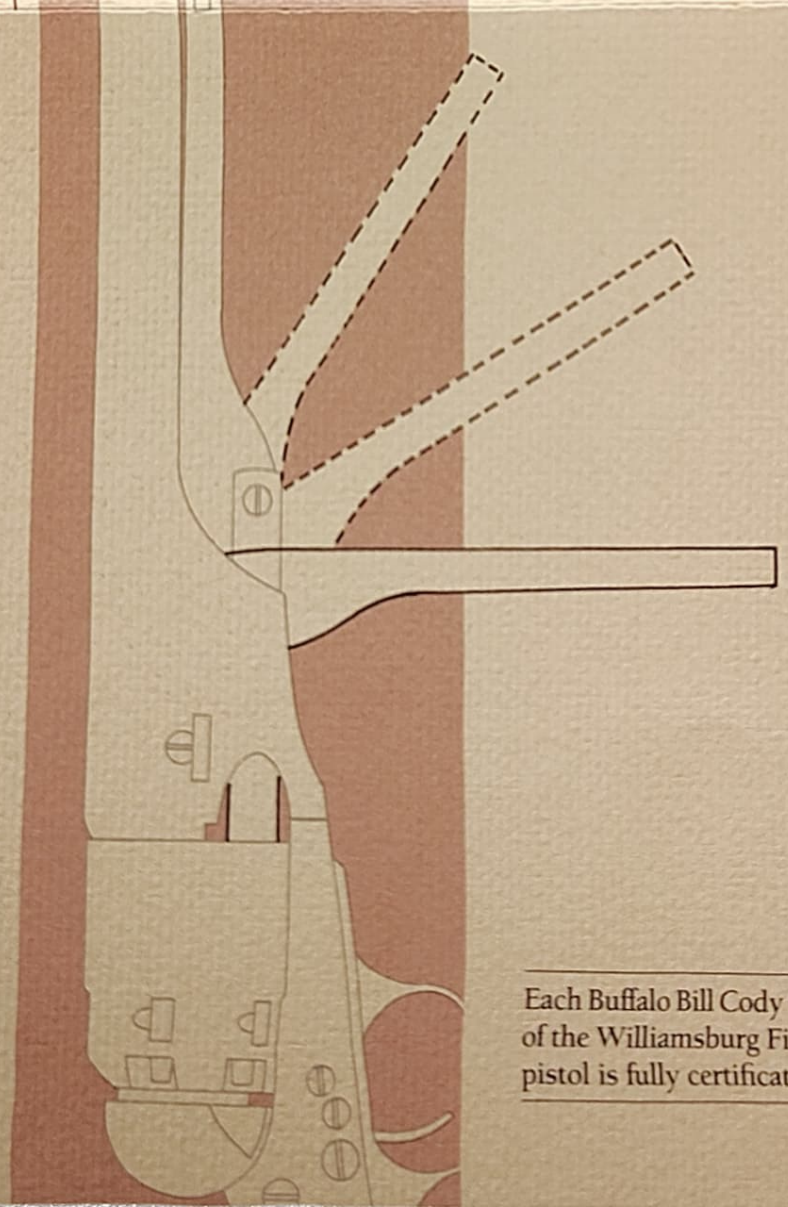
[6] *When you are ready to shoot, pull the hammer all the way back to full cock, aim the revolver and pull the trigger. You will notice that the cylinder revolves*



each time that you cock the hammer. You can shoot as fast as you can cock. By holding the trigger back and hitting the hammer with the cheek of your hand, considerable speed can be obtained at the loss of accuracy. This method of firing is called fanning because of the motion of the hand striking the hammer. While widely used by movie cowboys it is not a recommended procedure of firing as it is dangerous, inaccurate and wasteful of powder and ball.

Specifications

Overall Length: 13⅛ inches
Barrel Length: 8 inches
Caliber: .44
Weight: 2 pounds, 10 ounces
Engraving: 24-karat gold
Stock: Bonded ivory
Cylinder: Six chambers
Frame and Metal Cylinder: First quality steel, blued
Trigger guard and Backstrap: 24-karat gold plate
Percussion Caps: Original Bley Bros. style (Black powder only)
Powder Flask: 24-karat gold plated brass
Screw Driver/Nipple Wrench: Blued steel
Bullet Mould: Polished brass

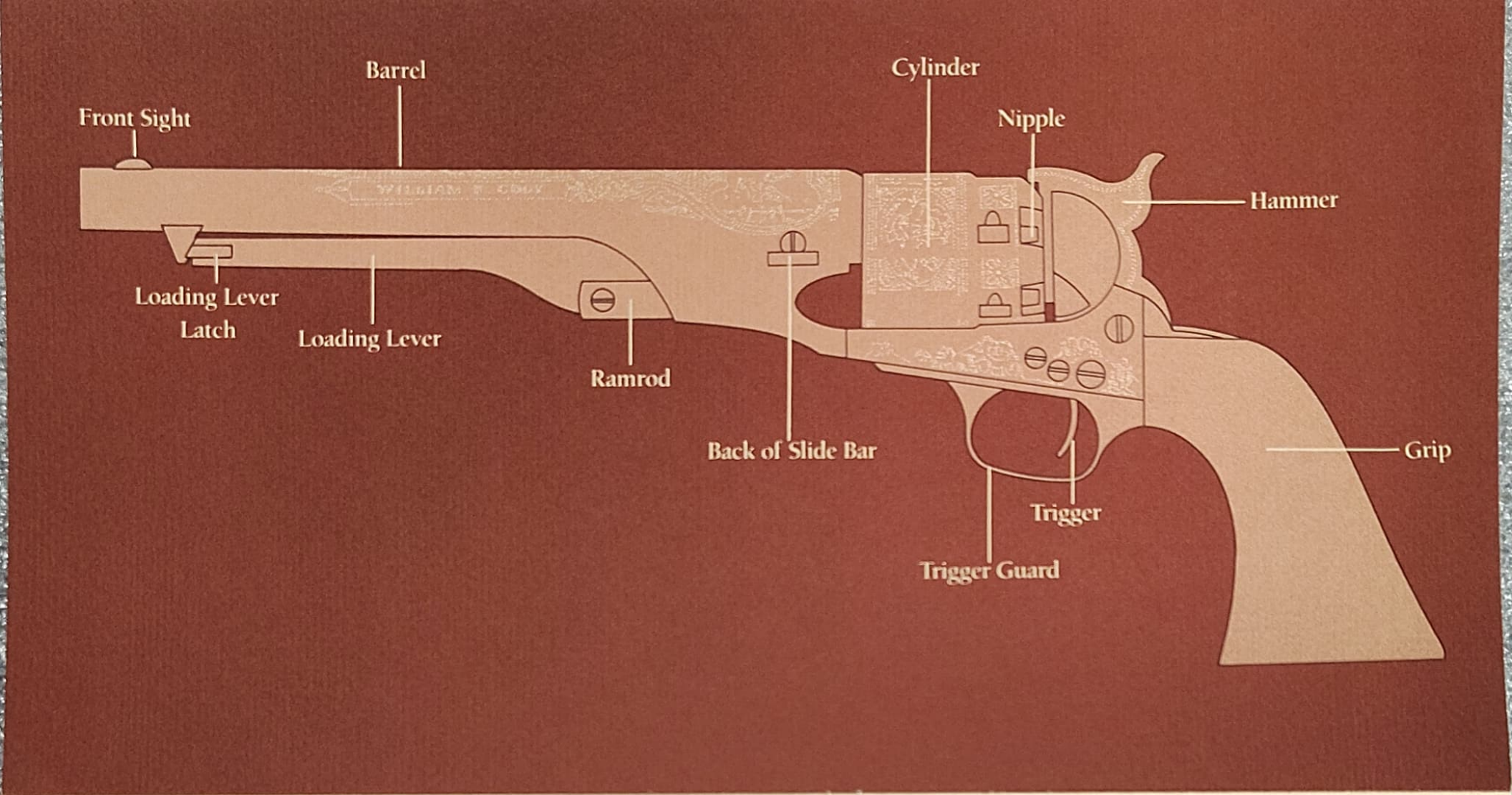


ful of powder and ball.

Because it is a time consuming chore to load the percussion revolvers, many of the old timers carried a spare cylinder already loaded. They could insert this loaded cylinder by removing the slide bar which retains the barrel and pulling the barrel forward to free the cylinder. The slide bar is located on the left side of the frame ahead of the cylinder and is held in place with a screw.

And don't forget – wear safety glasses and hearing protection whenever you shoot any firearm!

Each Buffalo Bill Cody Colt Reproduction has been test-fired under the direction of the Williamsburg Firearms Manufactory. As a genuine historical replica, each pistol is fully certificated and is exempt from firearm registration statutes.


Barrel
Cylinder
Front Sight
Nipple
Hammer
Loading Lever Latch
Loading Lever
Ramrod
Back of Slide Bar
Grip
Trigger
Trigger Guard

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